

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Editorially amend specification.
2. Amend claims 1, 5, 10, 13, 14, 19, 21, 23 – 26.
3. Add new claims 36 – 42.
4. Thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 14, 34 and 35.
5. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.
6. Advise the Examiner of the simultaneous filing of Proposed Drawing Changes to add the dash, double-dotted line in Fig. 3.
7. Advise the Examiner of the simultaneous filing of a Petition to Extend.
8. Advise the Examiner of the simultaneous (attached) filing of a PTO-1449

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-13, 15, 17-29, 30 and 32-33 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,960,344 to Mahany. Claims 7, 16 and 31 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,960,344 to Mahany in view of U.S. Patent 6,668,170 to Costa et al. All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 10, 19 and 26 have been amended to include subject matter of allowable dependent claim. Accordingly, all claims are deemed allowable.

New dependent claims 36 and 38 – 41, which specify an example mode of making the determination, are supported, e.g., by page 3, line 23+; page 9, line 1+; page 12, line 1+; etc. of the specification.

C. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Attached is a PTO-1449 citing U.S. Patent 5,754,961 to Serizawa et al for consideration and citation in the present application.

D. MISCELLANEOUS


In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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